

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An electric connector configured to be connected to a mating connector in a fitting direction and comprising contacts and an insulator fixedly retaining said contacts, said mating connector comprising a U-shaped contact comprising a first contact portion and a second contact portion, which are disposed separately from each other in the fitting direction,

wherein said insulator comprises a substantially plate-like fitting portion,

each of said contacts of the electrical connector comprises a first contact portion ~~for connection to a counterpart connector,~~ and a second contact portion being continuous with said first contact portion of the electrical connector and formed at a tip side of said contact the electrical connector in said fitting direction, wherein

said first and second contact portions of the electrical connector are disposed to connect to said first and second contact portions of the mating connector, respectively,

said fitting portion is disposed between said first and second contact portions of the mating connector when said electrical connector is connected to said mating connector, and

said first contact portion is disposed ~~so as to be exposed on~~ such that one side of said fitting portion is exposed, and said second contact portion is disposed such that at least part of said second contact portion is exposed at a surface of said fitting portion on the other side of said fitting portion

Claim 2. (Original) The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said contacts are molded in so as to be formed integral with said insulator.

Claim 3. (Original) The electrical connector according to claim 1, further comprising a metal shell covering the circumference of said insulator including said fitting portion.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein said contacts include a first contact and a second contact each having said first contact portion and said second contact portion, and wherein said second contact portion of said first contact is bent backward so that the tip thereof forms a U-shape, and said second contact portion of said second contact is bent forward so that the tip thereof forms an S-shape.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an electrical connector configured to be connected to a mating connector in a fitting direction and including contacts and an insulator having a substantially plate-like fitting portion that fixedly retains said contacts, said mating connector comprising a U-shaped contact comprising a first contact portion and a second contact portion which are disposed separately from each other in the fitting direction, said fitting portion being disposed between said first and second contact portions of the mating connector when said electrical connector is connected to said mating connector.

said method comprising the steps of:

forming a contact member having integrally said contacts and a carrier provided at ends of said contacts and connecting said ends of said contacts together; and

forming, at the other end of each of said contacts of the electrical connector, a first contact portion of said electrical connector ~~for connection to a counterpart connector~~, and a second contact portion of said electrical connector being continuous with said first contact portion and formed at a tip side of said contact in said fitting direction, said first and second contact portions of the electrical connector are provided for connection to said first and second contact portions of the mating connector, respectively, such that said first contact portion is exposed on one side of said fitting portion, and at least part of said second contact portion is exposed at a surface of said fitting portion on the other side of said fitting portion,

fixing said first contact portions spaced apart from each other at a predetermined interval therebetween by the use of a fixing metal mold,
and

overmolding said contacts to thereby form said contacts integral with said insulator.

Claim 6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of forming a metal shell so as to cover the circumference of said insulator including said fitting portion.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein said contacts include a first contact and a second contact each having said first contact portion and said second contact portion, and wherein said second contact portion of said first contact is bent backward so that the tip thereof forms a U-shape, and said second contact portion of said second contact is bent forward so that the tip thereof forms an S-shape.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said contacts include a first contact and a second contact each having said first contact portion and said second contact portion, and wherein said second contact portion of said first contact is bent backward so that the tip thereof forms a U-shape, and said second contact portion of said second contact is bent forward so that the tip thereof forms an S-shape.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The electrical connector according to claim 2, wherein said contacts include a first contact and a second contact each having said first contact portion and said second contact portion, and wherein said second contact portion of said first contact is bent backward so that the tip thereof forms a U-shape, and said second contact portion of said second contact is bent forward so that the tip thereof forms an S-shape.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The electrical connector according to claim 3, wherein said contacts include a first contact and a second contact each having said first contact portion and said second contact portion, and wherein said second contact portion of said first contact is bent backward so that the tip thereof forms a U-shape, and said second contact portion of said second contact is bent forward so that the tip thereof forms an S-shape.